

Message Text

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SUBJECT: 104TH EXBD, AGENDA ITEM 7.9: RELATIONS WITH THE
ARAB CENTER FOR THE STUDIES OF ARID ZONES AND DRY LANDS
(ACSAD) (104 EX/26)

1. POSITION

2. USDEL SHOULD NOT STAND IN THE WAY OF THE DG'S ENTERING
INTO NEGOTIATIONS TO DRAFT A COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH
ACSAD.

3. USDEL MAY NOTE THAT EXCELLENT WORK IN THIS FIELD IS
ALSO BEING CONDUCTED BY THE EGYPTIAN DESERT RESEARCH
INSTITUTE AND OTHER NATIONAL INSTITUTES.

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4. USDEL MAY, IF APPROPRIATE, DRAW ON POINTS IN THE
DISCUSSION SECTION BELOW.

5. DISCUSSION

6. SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS ORGANIZATION IN 1971,

ITS TECHNICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN WELL-PUBLICIZED
IN THE WESTERN WORLD, AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE ITS
TECHNICAL COMPETENCE OR ITS IMPACT IN THE ARAB REGION.
HOWEVER, AS THE ONLY ARAB REGIONAL ORGANIZATION IN THIS
SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED, IF FOR THAT REASON ALONE.

7. THE U.S. HYDROLOGICAL COMMUNITY HAS EXPRESSED FEARS
THAT ACSAD'S UNDERTAKING THE PREPARATION OF THE HYDRO-
GEOLOGICAL MAP OF THE ARAB STATES REGION MAY BE PREMATURE,
SINCE THERE REMAIN MANY GAPS IN INFORMATION ABOUT INDI-
VIDUAL COUNTRIES IN THE REGION. THE COMMISSION FOR THE
GEOLOGICAL MAP OF THE WORLD IS HAVING DIFFICULTY FUNDING
THE ACTIVITIES IT ALREADY HAS. FOR THESE REASONS, WE
WOULD CAUTION AGAINST COMMITTING ADDITIONAL UNESCO
RESOURCES TO THE POSSIBLY ILL-ADVISED ARAB STATES HYDRO-
GEOLOGICAL MAP PROJECT. CHRISTOPHER

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